

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:JMDION:MCH

APPROVED BY USOAS:WILLIAM S. MAILLIARD

USOAS:RBMOON

ARA/CEN:MPLATT

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P 202157Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: FONMIN BORGONOVO CALLS ON COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3476

SUMMARY: FONMIN BORGONOVO OF EL SALVADOR MET WITH COMMITTEE OF SEVEN JULY 19 TO DESCRIBE ACTION GOES HAS TAKEN AS RESULT OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS ON BORDER THAT CULMINATED IN SHOOTING FRAY JULY 13 IN WHICH TWO SALVADOREANS KILLED. GO:S HAS SENT NOTES TO GOVERNMENTS OF COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA INVOKING 1970 SAN JOSE AGREEMENT REGARDING DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND PULLBACK OF FORCES, OF WHICH THESE THREE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE GUARANTORS, AND ASKED THEIR INTERVENTION TO PRESERVE PEACE. NOTES DELIVERED JULY 16. END SUMMARY.

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1. CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA CONVENED SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AFTERNOON OF JULY 19 TO MEET WITH EL SALVADOR FONMIN BORGONOVO. CHAIRMAN'S LAST-MINUTE NOTIFICATION SAID BORGONOVO TRANSITING WASHINGTON, ASKED THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN HIS COURTESY CALL AND REQUESTED MEMBERS ARRIVE EARLY TO DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION.

2. BEFORE BORGONOVO INTRODUCED, SEVILLA SACASA GAVE 10

MINUTE SUMMARY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING LACK OF REPLY BY HONDURAS TO DRAFT TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP PRESENTED BY EL SALVADOR, REPLACEMENT OF MORE FLEXIBLE GOH FONMIN PERDOMO BY HARDLINER PALMA AND BORDER INCIDENTS LAST WEEK THAT LEFT TWO DEAD ON EL SALVADOR SIDE.

3. BORGONOVO ENTERED AT THIS POINT, THANKED COMMITTEE FOR HOLDING IMPROMTU SESSION, EXPRESSED GOES' CONCERN OVER INCIDENTS AT BORDER, REFERRED TO UNSATISFACTORY BILATERAL EFFORTS TO END SPORADIC VIOLENCE WITHIN TERMS OF SAN JOSE AGREEMENT AND READ TEXT OF NOTE ADDRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA ON FRIDAY, JULY 16.

4. IN NOTE, GOES ASKS COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA, AS GUARANTORS OF 1970 SAN JOSE AGREEMENT, TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF GRAVE SITUATION DEVELOPING ALONG HONDURAS/SALVADOR FRONTIER AND TO FIND A FORMULA TO IMPLEMENT THE GUARANTEES OF THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND A MUTUAL PULLBACK OF TROOPS FROM DISPUTED AREAS. HE REFERRED TO PREVIOUS USE OF OBSERVERS BUT MADE NO SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT GUARANTORS SHOULD DO NOW. BORGONOVO SAID GOES MADE DECISION TO INVOKE SAN JOSE AGREEMENT WHEN IT RECEIVED NO SATISFACTION FROM DIRECT CONTACTS WITH GOH, IN FORM OF BORGONOVO/PALMA PHONE CONVERSATION JULY 14 AND MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STAFF AT EL POY JULY 15. BORGONOVO CLAIMED HONDURAN CHIEF OF STAFF DENIED ANY INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED JULY 13 AND TOOK NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR SALVADOREAN CASUALTIES. THIS LEFT GOES NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ASK INTERVENTION OF GUARANTOR STATES WHO ARE SIGNATORIES OF SAN JOSE AGREEMENT. OBJECTIVE IS TO PREVENT WIDER CON-
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FLICT AND END BORDER VIOLENCE. PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WITH COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, BORGONOVO CONCLUDED, WAS TO INFORM OAS OF LATEST INITIATIVE, BUT NOT TO REQUEST OAS INVOLVEMENT AT THIS TIME.

5. SEVILLA SACASA THANKED FONMIN FOR PRESENTATION AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SITUATION HAD GONE FROM PROMISING EXPECTATIONS OF XIII MFM SESSION IN MARCH TO GRAVE DEVELOP-

MENTS OF RECENT WEEKS. COMMITTEE OF SEVEN APPRECIATED NOTIFICATION, WOULD FOLLOW EVENTS CLOSELY, BUT RECOGNIZED FIRST RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH GUARANTOR STATES OF 1970 SAN JOSE AGREEMENT. HE ANTICIPATED THAT GOVERNMENTS OF COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA WOULD MEET SOON AND DECIDE ON NECESSARY ACTION.

6. REPS OF OTHER MEMBER STATES ASKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLIC STATUS OF NOTE (STILL QTE RESERVED UNQTE BUT LIKELY TO BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE SOON), SITUATION AT BORDER

NOW (QUIET SINCE LAST FRIDAY) AND WHETHER DIRECT GOH/GOES CONTACTS SUSPENDED (MET LAST ON JULY 16 FOR INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE BUT LINKS NOT INTERRUPTED OFFICIALLY THUS FAR). GUATEMALA'S AMBASSADOR CASTILLO ARRIOLA SAID COMMITTEE OF SEVEN COULD ONLY FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS--ACTION WAS UP TO GOVERNMENTS OF GUARANTOR STATES AND HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON COURSE GUATEMALA LIKELY TO TAKE. COSTA RICAN REP AND SEVILLA SACASA FOR NICARAGUA ECHOED THIS POSITION. MEETING LASTED OVER TWO HOURS AND ENDED WITH AGREEMENT TO BRIEF GOH AMBASSADOR ON GENERAL OUTLINES OF BORGONOVO PRESENTATION AND TO MAKE NO COMMENT TO PRESS ABOUT HIS CALL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, BUFFER AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE179290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMDION:MCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760279-0735
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760739/aaaabiku.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEGUCIGALPA 3476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN BORGONOVO CALLS ON COMMITTEE OF SEVEN
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO, OAS
To: SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006